

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 9, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto. Claim 1, as amended, defines the invention over the cited prior art such that the heat treatment is a series of heat treating steps. Specifically induction heat treatment is applied concurrently to a first pair that includes a trunnion shoulder surface and a trunnion surface that corresponds to said trunnion shoulder surface. Thereafter heat treatment is applied to each such pair consecutively until each such pair has been heat treated. The '342 patent discloses a carburizing process, which is not an induction heat treat process. The carburizing process of the '342 patent is applied to the entire component, rather than in a series of steps applied to a portion of the component, as disclosed and claimed in this present application.

Claims 22-29 are pending in the application. In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, claims 22-29 appear now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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